

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1179  
By Graves

A RESOLUTION urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider its approval of an application for an interconnection between the Peabody Energy Corporation's Thoroughbred Energy Campus and the Tennessee Valley Authority's transmission system.

WHEREAS, an application has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for an interconnection between Peabody Energy Corporation's Thoroughbred Energy Campus and Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) transmission system for 750 megawatts; and

WHEREAS, the interconnection may jeopardize the reliability and stability of TVA's power supply, creating the possibility of cascading outages; and

WHEREAS, duty-bound to ensure the reliability of its power supply, TVA must perform system upgrades in an effort to maintain compliance with the reliability standards of the North American Electric Reliability Council; and

WHEREAS, these upgrades include the construction of a new 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from TVA's Paradise Fossil Plant in Muhlenberg, Kentucky, to TVA's Wilson Substation, which is located ten miles west of Lebanon in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, the approved 500-kV transmission line, slated for completion in the spring of 2009, will be approximately 90 miles long, approximately 40-45 miles of which will stretch from the Wilson Substation, through Wilson, Sumner, and Robertson Counties, to Tennessee's border with Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 500-kV transmission line, which will lie in the midst of a 4- to 5-mile-wide corridor, will run from Wilson County through the heart of Sumner County and into Robertson County, transecting the property of many landowners; the corridor and its towers,

and lines will effectively condemn or devalue the properties of many who currently live in or near the proposed path of construction; and

WHEREAS, the 500-kV transmission line will condemn hundreds of acres of farmland, making many farms unfit for use and destroying the livelihood of many farmers; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a 500-kV transmission line could endanger the health and well-being of those who live and work along its path; and

WHEREAS, in light of the potentially devastating effect such new 500-kV transmission line could have on the citizens of this State, a preventative measure must be taken immediately; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby most strongly urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider its approval of the application by Peabody Energy Corporation for an interconnection between its Thoroughbred Energy Campus and TVA's transmission system, thereby erasing the need for a new 500-kV transmission line connecting the Wilson Substation and the Paradise Fossil Plant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.